WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 7 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | NOVEMBER 2002

Hey Pal, Can Ya' Spare $150 Million?

Debate Grows Over County's Proposed Mega-jail

Steve Hughes

Fresh off the heels of last years' heated, and largely successful campaign to oppose a slew of anti-homeless ordinances proposed by the City of Olympia, local activists are gearing up for a new fight. The streets and jails have increasingly become the last domain for those with un-treated mental illnesses, those with addictions to drugs and alcohol, and those fleeing abusive relationships with partners and family.

In the time-honored tradition of proposing false solutions to real problems the Thurston County government has presented its answer to these issues: build a massive new jail. Cost: $150,000,000.00.

Why a jail? Why now?

Few would contest that the current county jail is indeed very crowded. On the other hand, in the county the rate of incarceration has shot up four times faster than the rate of overall population growth. This has happened for several reasons:

* Essential services (mental health, substance abuse treatment, etc.) are under-funded, so people are thrown in jail instead.
* Lack of affordable housing makes people homeless, so they are more conspicuous and vulnerable to arrest.
* Governments treat drug use as a crime rather than a public health matter.
* Politicians wanting to be "tough on crime" have been requiring longer sentences.
* More crimes now require mandatory jail sentences.

Even with plans for a 25 bed mental health triage center slowly moving along, the county's proposed 900 bed jail will be forced to serve as a low-income housing project, a mental hospital, and a drug and alcohol treatment center all rolled into one. Of the $150 million of tax revenue (which does not include the yearly operating costs) to be raised for the jail, very little is will be invested in anything but jail and courtroom capacity. The kinds of services that might keep people out of jail in the first place-or at least prevent them from coming back once released-are, so far, barely present in the county's discussion of the project.

Where's the public?

When approximately 30-40 local residents, including members of Justice Not Jails and the local chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI), attended a forum sponsored by the county to discuss the proposed jail, they were surprised to find that no comment was being taken from the audience. In fact, the county did not even make a presentation about the jail. Instead those who showed up were greeted with an "open house" event in which different departments of county/city government and the regional criminal justice system answered the questions of somewhat bewildered partygoers who were left to wander from table to table.

To activists who fought the anti-homeless ordinances in Olympia, these tactics may sound familiar: control the terms of the public forum, disallow public comment before the entire group, and diffuse the voices of opposition into easily ignored comment sheets and small group discussions.

Fail the Jail!

So will a mega-jail be built in Thurston County? Maybe. But the county will not have an easy time of it. Those who oppose the jail have many advantages in this struggle. To fund the project the county must run a ballot referendum and receive 60% of the vote-no small task, especially in the face of an oppositional campaign.

Groups and individuals openly opposing, or expressing concern over the jail already include: neighborhood associations near the proposed site, members of the chamber of commerce, city council members from Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater, the Thurston/Mason Counties National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, and, of course, Justice Not Jails. The list is sure to grow as groups such as NAMI and Justice Not Jails take a lead in educating the public about cost-effective alternatives to incarceration.

When the spring election season makes its way back to Thurston County it is important that we say loud and clear that blaming-and locking up-the poor, the mentally ill, the abused and the addicted is an unacceptable response to the failings of our economy and social structures. Please join with me in voting down the proposed jail, and calling for real alternatives to incarceration.

Olympia City Council Resolution

Backing the President

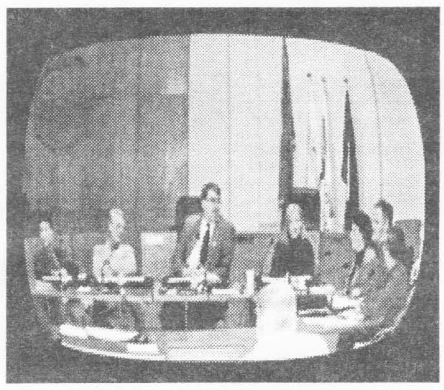
Krystal Kyer

On October 15, the Olympia City Council voted 5 to 1 to adopt a resolution calling for President Bush and Congress to do their jobs when deciding on a pre-emptive war on Iraq.

In the two weeks prior to Oct.15, activists with the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace approached city council members asking them to consider passing a resolution against the impending war on Iraq. I was one of those activists. We approached the council with a strong resolution unanimously passed just a few weeks ago by the city council of Santa Cruz, CA. We also offered them a copy of the letter that the Seattle City Council sent to Senators Murray and Cantwell just before the Congressional vote, which urged them to heed Senator Byrd's warning that the resolution was an unconstitutional 'blank check' for the President to do whatever he wishes.

Instead of modeling the Olympia city council's resolution after either of these two documents, council members voted for an easy way out. The adopted resolution asks the President and Congress to do their jobs, that is all. It does not take a stand on going to war with Iraq. It doesn't even ask the President to provide the public with sufficient evidence that Iraq is an imminent threat. Instead, 5 of the 6 council members trust the President and our Representatives to do the right thing. The gist of the resolution is "Dear Mr. President, we trust you, we stand behind you, and we do not question your motives."

The Olympia City Council offered us thirty minutes to make our case. Thus, approximately 10 people spoke, and only two were in favor of the council's draft resolution. All of the rest urged the city council to adopt a much stronger statement against the impending war on Iraq. Concerns included the distraction from the economic crisis, the high unemployment, state budget shortfalls, high military spending, cuts in social spending to support the war on terror; environmental consequences of war, long-term costs of war and rebuilding Iraq; adherence to international law and working through the UN and upholding international treaties; thwarting the Constitution, civil



liberties and the USA-PATRIOT Act; psychological and physical effects of war on soldiers American casualties; and Iraqi civilian casualties from the last 12 years of economic sanctions, and from an escalation of war...

I used my three minutes encouraging the city council to delay a vote, and instead hold a public forum so that we can have a spirited and democratic debate with which the City Council could better gauge what kind of resolution represents the concerns of Olympians. Other speakers urged the same. I also brought to their attention a petition asking the city council to take stand against the war on Iraq, which had nearly 400

(continued next page)

Justice Not Jails will be hosting its second public forum about the proposed jail

Saturday, November 16, 1-3 PM
First Christian Church (on Franklin St., kaddy corner from the downtown Olympia library)

Speakers will include:

- **Selena Kilmoyer, staff member of Bread & Roses**
- **Matthew Green, member of the Olympia City Council**
- **Bill Pilkey, President of the Thurston/Mason Counties National Alliance for the Mentally Ill**

For more info contact: justicenotjails@yahoo.com

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Timberland Library system. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Dave Campbell	Margaret Love
Sebastian Chase	Sandy Mayes
Tom Chenhall	Hali Panneton
Renee Cruickshank	Jeff Sowers
Megan Davis	Sylvia Smith
Teresa Jennings	Pat Tassoni
Jerome Johnson	

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Nov. 22nd

PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
phone/fax (360) 705-2726
wip@olywa.net * www.olywa.net/wip

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Community Sustaining Fund of Thurston County

The Community Sustaining Fund (CSF) of Thurston County is pleased to announce our Fall 2002 grant funding cycle. Grant applications for environmental and social change projects are now available to groups and individuals interested in progressive community oriented activities.

The deadline for submitting completed grant applications is Friday, November 15, 2002. In-person grant presentations to the CSF Board are required for all applicants meeting our minimum criteria and will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2002.

Grant criteria and application forms are available on request from:

* Traditions Fair Trade (5th and Water St., Olympia);
* Via Traditions web site: http://www.traditionsfairtrade.com/pages/tradhome.html
* Writing CSF at 2103 Harrison St.NW Suite 2715 Olympia, WA 98502.

Ecocity Olympia

Terra Commons is please to invite you to Ecocity Olympia, an eight-week seminar series that will explore questions that South Puget Sound residents have about the relationships connecting ecology, economy, and our public processes and policies. Please find attached two documents describing the event and a registration form. Registration can also be done on-line at: www.freeskoolco-op.org.

If you have questions or for more information please contact Terra Commons at one of the following: leuwit@hotmail.com (360) 352-1665

HEARTSPARKLE PLAYERS

Stories of Love and Friendship

In collaboration with Thurston County Study Circles on Race
Friday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m.
Traditions - 300 5th Ave SW
(downtown Olympia)
Suggested donation $5.00 to $10.00 (No one is turned away)

Each month we invite a guest artist, community organization, arts program or social service agency to be a part of our performance. Through this collaboration we acknowledge and honor the work individuals and organizations do in our community. This month we will be collaborating with Thurston County Study Circles on Race.

Playback Theatre is a spontaneous collaboration between performers and audience. People tell moments from their lives, then watch them recreated with movement, music and dialogue.

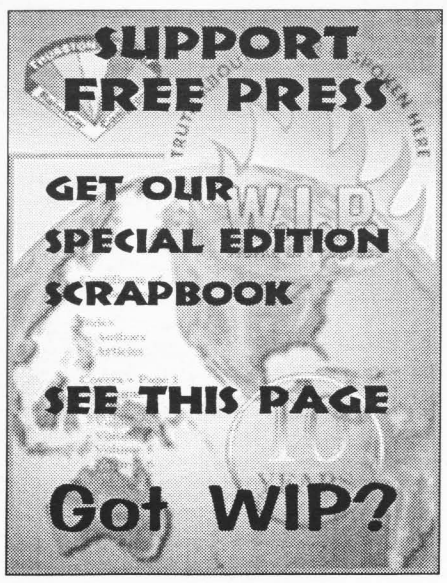
Thurston County Study Circles on Race was formed in November 1999 after a dozen people met for 5 two hour sessions to listen and share their experience on racism and race issues in Thurston County. Thurston County Study Circles on Race has formed coalitions with other community wide groups for the purpose of involving people in discussions of race relations. Since forming, more than 200 people have participated in discussions on race. Some of those people now participate in or support the continuing efforts of the original group to make Thurston County a prejudice free community.

A study circle on race is a small group democratic, participatory discussion that is guided by a trained facilitator. Over a series of five meetings, the group engages in a dialogue about racism and race relations. People have the chance to get to know one another, consider different points of view, explore disagreements, discover common ground, and move from dialogue to action. These community-wide study circle programs occur in every region of the country.

Calling All Artists

The Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition (WROC)is holding its annual fundraiser, ARTWROC. ARTWROC is a chance for local artists to display and sell their artwork. On December 7 WROC will turn The Fertile Ground Bed and Breakfast into an art showcase. There will be live music, food and drinks, and lots of local art. If you work in crafts, paints, or any other kind of medium, and want to display and sell your art, call WROC at (360) 352-9716. Artists donate 50% of the procedes to The Welfare Rights Orgainizing Coalition.

Only You Can Keep WIP Going for Another 10 Years



Subscriptions: ☐ Individual … $35 ☐ Low-Income …$15

Merchandise: ☐ WIP Flame LogoT-Shirt . . . $15 each; # _____ size(s)_____

☐ WIP 10-year Retrospective Scrapbook . . . $15 each

☐ Catalog/Index Listing…$1; back issues…$1/each (while supplies last)

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NOVEMBER 2002

Women in Black

Olympia Vigil

Fridays
5:00-6:30 PM
4th Ave
& Water

"Women in Black vigils were started in Israel in 1988 by women protesting against Israel's Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, demanding peace between Israel and the Palestinians." Women in Black has since become "a loose network of women world-wide committed to peace with justice and active opposition to war and other forms of violence. It is not an organization, but a means of mobilization and a formula for action." WiB demonstrations "are always women only, and usually take the form of women wearing black, standing in a public place in silent, non-violent vigils at regular times and intervals."

Source: London's Women in Black

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Standing together can give us a sense of solidarity and purpose as women. We can encourage and lend support to other women around the world who are often closer to the violence. And we can educate, inform and influence public opinion to make war an unthinkable option. **Women in Black, Australia**					photo: Meredith Baxter	**1** **2001**: U of W study reveals mental health problems #1 reason WA children 5 -19 are hospitalize
2 **2001**: Labor Dept says unemployment rate rose .5% in Oct **2001**: 17th anthrax case confirmed	**3** **1813**: Creek War: U.S. troops destroy Native village of Talishatchee **2001**: KAOS general manager Kemp quits	**4** **1647**: The Massachusetts General Court passes a law that makes heresy punishable by death	**5** **2001**: Olympia City Council letter of concern of Miller's proposal to release wastewater into Deschutes	**6** **2001**: Incumbents TJ Johnson and Jeff Dickison defeated; Property tax cap initiative -747 passes	**7** **2001**: Feds raid Seattle grocery store owned by Somali refugee claiming he was wiring money to bin Laden	**8** **2001**: WA State denies Miller's request to dump 1.25 million gallons of wastewater into Deschutes daily
9 **2001**: US Labor Dept reports that wholesale prices dropped 1.6% in October, the biggest drop ever	**10** **1952**: Supreme Court rules in favor of lower court decision barring segregation in interstate railway travel	**11** **1831**: Slave revolter Nat Turner hanged **2001**: US admits no evidence bin Laden has nuclear weapons	**12** **2001**: Simpson Timber in Shelton announces the lay off 69 jobs, and that 7 more positions will not be refilled	**13** **2001**: Northern Alliance captures Kabul **2001**: Bush directs nation's oil reserves to be fill to capacity	**14** **2000**: Over half of WA St consumers willing to pay higher food prices for environmentally safe farming	**15** **1999**: Federal Judge gives WA state until May to start providing treatment for violent sexual predators
16 **2001**: Congress passes law increasing air marshals, fortifying cockpit doors, making airport screeners federal	**17** **1881**: Samuel Gompers organizes the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions in US/Canada	**18** **1964**: J.Edgar Hoover, characterizes Martin Luther King, Jr., as "the most notorious liar in the country."	**19** **1996**: Salvation Army temporary agrees to admit homeless men barred for not complying with self-help rules	**20** **2001**: Labor Dept reports unemployment jumped in 33 states in Oct with WA having the highest rate of 6.6%	**21** **1997**: The ACLU asks Lacey City Council to rescind the city's proclamation of Nov 23-30 as Bible Week	**22** **2001**: 5th death from Anthrax in Conn, not related to mail **2001**: Taliban surrenders Kunduz
23 **1999**: Gov Locke proposes cutting 1,500 full-time jobs, and contracting out additional state services	**24** **1999**: Native American farmers file $19 billion lawsuit against Agriculture Dept for loan discrimination	**25** **2001**: 100s of Taliban prisoners held by Northern Alliance are killed in a claimed prison uprising	**26** **2001**: Nat'l Bureau of Economic Research officially announces US entered economic recession in March	**27** **1999**: 2 women hang from Interstate 5 holding: "Caution: Corporate Rule Ahead. Shut down the WTO."	**28** **1909**: The French National assembly offers working women eight weeks vacation after childbirth	**29** **1999**: The Social Security retirement age raises from age 65 to 67 for those born in 1960 or later
30 **2001**: Gary Ridgway arrested for 49 Green River murders; DNA from chewed gauze led to new evidence	**Women in Black vigil at Westlake Park, Seattle**	Photo by Joseph Collas			**Let us not allow the watching world today to despair of our silence and our failure to act. Instead, let the world hear our pledge: we will resist the machinery of war and repression and rally others to do everything possible to stop it.** "A Statement of Conscience: Not In Our Name":	

Gravel Pit And Asphalt Plant

Rocks or Birds ??

Bill Mandeville

Sue Danver, Black Hills Audubon Society, successfully got the Green Party of South Puget Sound's support to oppose the Black Hills gravel pit and asphalt plant. She is asking local Greens and others to submit comments opposing the plant and attend a public hearing on Wednesday, November 13th, at 10:30AM before the Thurston County Hearings Examiner.

Last June Quality Rock Products obtained a permit to expand a 26-acre gravel mine to 151 acres and to build an asphalt mixing plant and cement batch plant. The project is expected to create up to 400 truck trips a day along Littlerock Road and 88th Avenue, and add 300 pounds of air pollution a day. The site is adjacent to the Black River National Wildlife Refuge.

At an emotional meeting last month, County Commissioners remanded the proposal, saying too many details were missing, including its effects on traffic, safety, water quality and wildlife. They sent it back to the Hearings Examiner for reconsideration.

Black Hills Audubon Society, along with other environmental groups such as Nisqually Delta Association, the Olympia chapter of Trout Unlimited, South Sound Fly Fishers and the Chehalis River Council, agree that the Hearing Examiner did not consider all the facts.

For instance, they contend new information about salmon in a stream running through the project property was not studied or considered. In December spawning Coho salmon were discovered in Ashley Creek. Washington Fish and Wildlife filed a letter staring it was a historic trout and salmon stream.

Another contention is that Quality Rock Products did not analyze how 300 added pounds of air pollution a day would affect salmon, other fish and wildlife when they ingest it.

Furthermore, the SEPA application states the project has an insignificant impact on recreation. It overlooked the impact the truck traffic, noise and dust has upon birdwatchers, kayakers, and fishers who frequent the nearby Black River and wetlands.

Public comments are due on October 30, 2002, and should be sent to:

Jim Driscoll, Hearing Examiner
Thurston Co. Development
2000 Lakeridge Dr SW #1
Olympia, WA 98502

A public hearing on the proposal is scheduled for Wednesday, November 13, 2002, at 10:30AM in the Thurston County Courthouse, Bldg #1, Room #152.

Works In Progress is a 12-year old alternative newspaper in Olympia and Thurston County. WIP challenges the corporate media by remaining committed to confronting oppression and encouraging action around issues of economic, social, and environmental justice.

WIP is not a 501C3 nonprofit. WIP does not pay any of its workers, because we don't have a means to. We are a dozen or so volunteers that do everything from collect and write articles, do layout, paste-up, sell advertising, proofread, distribute, make mailing labels, fold & stamp issues for mailing, and replenish distribution sites.

Please consider that each issue costs roughly 500^{00} to produce. WIP also mails 20 free subscriptions to incarcerated people and has other bills to pay such as for toner cartridges, disks, gas money, paper, PO Box rental, etc. Please donate money if you support alternative media, our mission, or the paper you hold in your hands.

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Women Pay for State Budget Crisis

Seahawk Stadium is the newest jewel in the Seattle skyline. Seahawks Stadium cost $425 million dollars out of which $300 million were public funds.

Today it is a stark reminder of how badly out of kilter are the Legislature funding priorities. A few blocks away, King County officials are reducing their funding for human services by $6 million. Public funding for the Stadium would maintain King County's current funding for human services for the next 50 years.

Last month the Washington Research Council released a report on funding cuts for human services in King County. This report is considered by many as a harbinger of the pending State budget crisis. It anticipates that King County may need to reduce its funding for human services roughly 28%.

In King County, programs providing supportive services will receive a 46% cut. Funding for Family Support and Legal Services is targeted for elimination. Childcare dollars are projected to decrease by 90%. Funding for public health will be cut 15% to 50% of its current funding levels. Women are the main consumers of these services.

In a couple months, state legislators will be sharpening their axe. Their primary target will be the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Next to public schools, which are protected in part by I-728 and I-732, DSHS represents 28% of the State's general fund budget. Women represent roughly two-thirds or more of DSHS's clientele.

Looking at the programs proposed for cuts at both the state and local levels, it becomes clear that mostly women will suffer the impact of these budget cuts. Gender equity is based on the ability for women to financially and emotionally support themselves. Without this ability, women are forced to remain in subservient, and sometimes abusive, relationships. These programs that are getting cut represent freedom to many women.

Feminist and groups who support them, such as the Green Party, need to get involved. These budget-cuts disproportionately impact women.

At the very least, the Seahawks Stadium needs to be put on the chopping block too.

AREN'T 500,000 DEAD IRAQI CHILDREN ENOUGH?*

Photo: Alan Pogue

* *Child in Central Baghdad. The United Nations estimates that 5000 Children* die each month in Iraq because of the U.S.-demanded sanctions A new war will kill countless more

CHOOSE LIFE. OPPOSE THE WAR.

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Lies, Damn Lies, And George W. Bush

Tom Wright

More than 1.5 million people, half of them children, have died in Iraq because of the harsh sanctions imposed on that country after the Gulf War. According to UNICEF and many humanitarian groups, 5,000 children a month die there from malnutrition, preventable diseases and lack of hospital care, a direct result of the sanctions demanded by the United States.

Now we are being asked to support a devastating attack that will overthrow the Iraqi government, almost certainly including a massive invasion of Baghdad. That's a city of five million people, where countless innocent lives will be lost. While few on earth would lament the departure of the wretched Saddam Hussein, the reasons on offer for this war demand a much more thorough cross-examination than we've been getting in the press.

Consider some of the principle rationales for war that the Bush administration offers:

"We must attack Iraq in self-defense"

Apart from the near-daily U.S. bombardment of Iraqi targets, and the illegal maintenance of the "no-fly zones", the United States has bombed and destroyed Iraqi water treatment plants, sewage treatment plants and electrical generating stations, and has deliberately destroyed economic targets like oil refineries. Whatever one's view of these things, they are defined as war crimes under international law. The largest number of casualties in Iraq today result from contaminated water systems, which can't be repaired because of the sanctions maintained at our insistence. Electric capacity is at just 35% of its pre-war levels.

Dennis Halliday, former head of the U.N. Humanitarian Mission in Iraq, has said that despite the "Oil for Food" program, which has brought some relief, we have caused "massive malnutrition." The average birth weight is now under five pounds, an indicator of "famine conditions." Hospital care and major infrastructure have collapsed. Halliday calls the sanctions "an intentional programme to destroy a culture, an people, a country" -- in his words a policy of "genocide."

Iraq has not attacked the United States.

"But we must attack Iraq because they may attack us in the future"

The UN Charter, to which we are bound by treaty obligation (meaning the "supreme Law of the Land" under Article VI of the U.S. Constitution), permits "individual or collective self-defense" only against "armed attack", and only until the Security Council can act. Unprovoked attacks are expressly forbidden. Bush (and Congress) have declared an intention to attack with or without Security Council approval, in other words to commit the crime of aggression, a grave violation of the law.

Iraq lacks the ability to attack the U.S. by conventional means, its missile range being only a few hundred miles, and its military is a fraction of its Gulf War strength (and it proved none too effective then). The CIA itself reported in October that it saw no likelihood of an Iraqi attack on the U.S. "in the foreseeable future", because Saddam knows that any such attack would lead to his destruction.

By the standard of behavior the U.S. is claiming for itself, any state may invade another on the mere claim that it "feels threatened". One can imagine the sort of world that would result were this doctrine to gain universal acceptance.

"But we must respond to the threats of a new era, in which 'rogue states' are acquiring weapons of mass destruction"

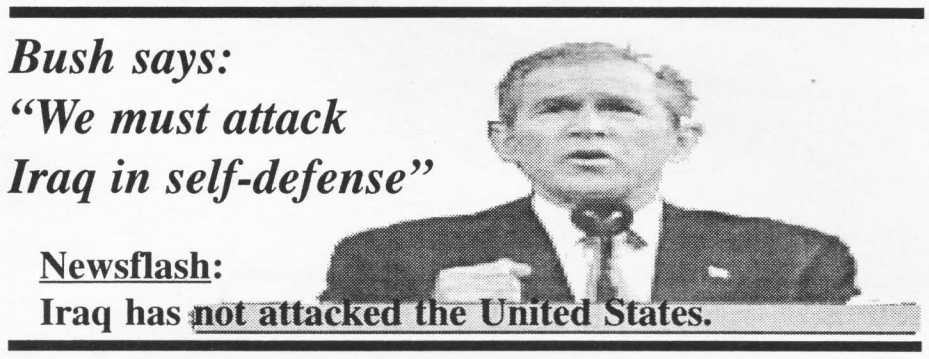
Iraq has indeed acquired chemical and biological weapons in the past, and has used them to carry out horrifying massacres of civilians, for example the killing of 5000 Kurds in Halabja in 1988. Many of these weapons were given to Saddam by the United States, along with crop-dusting helicopters used to disperse them. We gave $500 Million to Iraq in 1988, and the next year, following the gassing of Kurds and the destruction of hundreds of villages in northern Iraq, we doubled the aid to $1 Billion. Well after these atrocities, the U.S. sold Saddam anthrax, VX nerve gas, West Nile fever germs, botulism, and other deadly bacteria, sales which continued until a year after the Gulf War, according to a 1994 Senate committee report. The committee, chaired by Sen. Donald Riegle, reported that the U.S. provided Saddam with "chemical warfare-agent precursors, chemical warfare-agent production facility plans and technical drawings ,chemical warfare filling equipment, biological warfare-related materials, missile fabrication equipment and missile system guidance equipment".

Furthermore, Washington supported Iraq's 1980 invasion of Iran, and even supplied intelligence in 1984 to help 'calibrate' mustard gas attacks on Iranian soldiers (Washington Post) A million lives were lost on both sides in the 8-year war. As Phyllis Bennis points out in Iraq Under Siege, the U.S. motive at the time was to see both Iran and Iraq weakened by the conflict. These were the only two Middle Eastern states that combined significant land, water, population and oil wealth, prerequisites for independent power in the region. Washington has sought exclusive dominance of the region's vital resources.

So the weapons from which we now must "protect ourselves" were largely supplied by us in the first place, when it was considered instrumental to "U.S. interests" (in other words, when we wanted Saddam to use weapons of mass destruction against his neighbors and his own people). At any rate, these same weapons were the object of the U.N. inspection teams in Iraq in the 1990s. According to U.S. Marine Major Scott Ritter, the U.N.'s former chief weapons inspector, most or all of these weapons were destroyed by the inspection teams. Ritter, a self-described "card-carrying Republican", has called Bush a "liar" for claiming Saddam is a threat to the U.S. He says Iraq has no banned weapons of any importance. Ritter also rejects claims of a nuclear program, saying that tell-tale gamma ray emissions would have been detected by satellite surveillance.

"U.N. inspections can't ensure our security. Saddam has repeatedly obstructed them, and "regime change" is the only solution.

The inspection teams, by all accounts successful in dismantling Iraq's weapons, were withdrawn in 1999 after Iraq accused the U.S. of using the United Nations teams to spy. The U.S. later admitted that this was true, although this fact has now mostly disappeared from media reports. The U.N. teams were used to plant electronic devices, which were then used to direct U.S. bomb attacks on Iraqi targets. (Washington Post) Which of the world's nations would welcome a return of inspections after this history? Does Washington bear any responsibility here?



"We must enforce compliance with Security Council resolutions, or the United Nations will become weak and ineffective"

Here the Administration is being rather selective. As Stephen Zunes has written in The Nation, there are "more than ninety (Security Council) resolutions currently violated by countries other than Iraq. The vast majority of these violations are by governments closely allied to the United States.

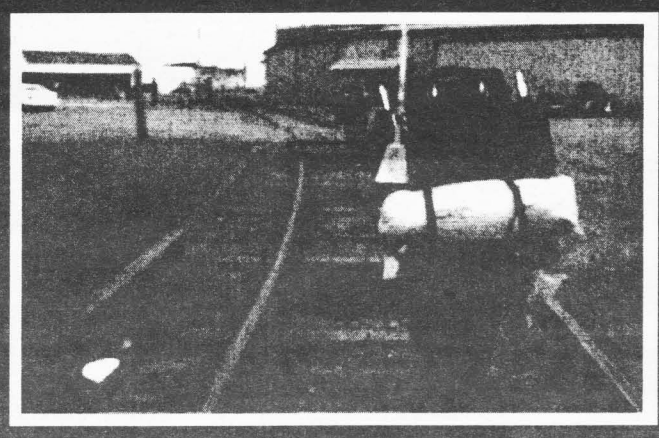
Zunes recalls the case of Indonesia's 1975 invasion of East Timor, with the subsequent massacre of 250,000 Timorese. The U.S. responded with massive arms shipments to the invaders, and deliberately obstructed efforts to enforce the Security Council resolutions demanding immediate withdrawal (for more on the U.S. role in this terrible story, read Noam Chomsky's 1981 book Towards A New Cold War).

Turkey is another obvious case. Not only does it remain in violation of Security Council resolutions for its occupation of Cyprus dating to 1974, but the U.S. has provided it with massive military and financial aid as it has carried out huge massacres of its Kurdish population. In fact, the peak of Turkish attacks on the Kurds in the mid-1990s, as 3500 villages were destroyed, coincided with the peak of American support for Turkey. The U.S. even allowed the Turks to bomb Iraqi Kurds living in the U.S.-imposed 'no-fly zone" (Phyllis Bennis, Iraq Under Siege).

But by far the greatest violator of UNSC resolutions is Israel. Best known are Resolutions 242 and 338, dating as far back as 1967, which call for Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. But there are many others, which for some reason never get picked up by the corporate media's search engines. Who besides scholars like Stephen Zunes have ever heard of Security Council Resolutions 267, 271 and 298, which demand a reversal of Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem? Or 446, 452 and 465, which demand the evacuation of the illegal Israeli settlements? And what has the U.S. position been when these articles of binding

(continued next page)

Homeless in Olympia



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(Damn Lies, continued)

international law were ignored? Did we insist on crippling sanctions that would kill 500,000 Jewish children? Lay waste to the Israeli water and electrical infrastructure? Demand "regime change"? Of course not-that would be an intolerable moral offense, exactly as it is when we do it to Iraq. Rather, the American policy has consistently been to prevent the enforcement of the law, to obstruct the nearly unanimous world opinion on a just resolution of the crisis, and in fact to finance and enable the very violations at the focus of legal intervention.

East Jerusalem is a striking example. This traditionally Arab part of the city was illegally "annexed" to Israel more than 20 years ago, and its juridical boundaries have ever since ballooned out to swallow up some 29 surrounding Arab villages. Subsequently, the area has undergone a systematic and violent process of ethnic cleansing, as massive construction and illegal Jewish settlement have displaced the original inhabitants. The U.S. Congress just voted to move the American embassy to Jerusalem, a step no other country on earth has considered because the city's occupation violates Security Council resolutions,

The construction of the settlements, the movement of Jewish settlers into them, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water, and the systematic abuses of the civilian population, are all themselves "grave breaches" of the Fourth Geneva Convention, another cornerstone of international law that Israel has openly ignored for decades. As a High Contracting Party to the Geneva Conventions, the U.S. is legally obligated to ensure respect for its provisions, and indeed to prosecute those who violate them.

But again, we have done the opposite. U.S. taxpayers have given Israel, since 1967, the staggering sum of $100 Billion, enough money without question to finance all the illegal settlements that have fueled the crisis, meanwhile demonstrating that international law is obeyed only when it is convenient.

And now we race heedlessly towards war. The ultra-rightist elements now in power, cynically exploiting Americans' feelings after the September 11 catastrophe, hope they can seize the moment and take direct control over the planet's 2nd largest proven reserves of oil-namely Iraq. To do so they will risk the lives of thousands of young men and women in the military, ignore the rest of the world's opinion, and bring massive destruction to the people of Iraq.

This war is wrong and must be stopped. Despite the Congressional votes, opposition is growing quickly across the United States and around the world. Americans across a broad spectrum have come to see this war as unwise, unnecessary and dangerous to ourselves and others. There is a real public space right now for dissent that didn't exist during the Afghanistan war, and concerned activists should not let it pass.

Here in Olympia a large coalition is forming, and is attempting to build the largest possible peace rally we can, with an energetic outreach effort. Please get involved. Time is short. The rally is at noon, Saturday, November 9. Please see the full-page advertisement in this issue. Then post it somewhere visible. We need your energy. Can you help holding signs and banners, or making calls, or making contact with your church, social or professional group? Carry literature door-to-door? Build e-mail lists? Hand out leaflets? Please contact us at the phone numbers in the ad, or on the websites below.

To learn more

Excellent sources of current information and views excluded from the corporate press can be found online at www.commondreams.org and at www.alternet.org.

For articles on the Middle East, see:

* www.zmag.org/weluser.htm
* www.merip.org
* www.epic-usa.org

For books and background, see:

* Noam Chomsky, *The Fateful Triangle, 9-11, and Deterring Democracy*
* Anthony Arnove (ed.), *Iraq Under Siege*
* Howard Zinn, *Terrorism and War*

For local information, go to:

* www.opme.org
* www.omjp.org
* www.olyfor.org

(Oly Council, continued)

signatures from one night's effort.

Council members didn't listen. Instead, immediately after the public comment period ended, council member Curt Pavola moved to vote on the draft resolution at that time. Council member Matthew Green seconded the motion to vote. Council member Pavola claimed that foreign affairs were not a matter for the city council to take up. Howard Rosenfeld refuted that claim with his impromptu pronouncement that the city council passed a resolution against the Multilateral Agreement on Investments a few years ago. Thus, the council's unwillingness to take a stand on war on Iraq was exposed, as several attendees noted, as an act of cowardice.

Only council member Laura Ware spoke against the draft. She cited the need to listen to her constituents, as have Representative Brian Baird and Senator Patty Murray have. She also encouraged more public discussion, perhaps a forum as we suggested. I applaud Council member Ware for taking her responsibilities seriously and representing her constituents.

Finally, Mayor Pro Tem Mark Foutch suggested that a public forum should be pursued to further discussion. However, he rejected requests to hold a public forum before deciding on which resolution to adopt. Instead, he suggested that one of the local peace groups organize the event with a third non-involved party to allow all voices to be heard. Hello! — this is exactly what we requested the city council do, but they failed to step up to the plate and uphold the values of a democratic society. They skirted their duties just as Congress did when they gave the President a 'blank check' to wage an offensive war. Clearly, the Olympia City Council is taking its cue from Congress and the interests they serve -- their corporate campaign contributors.

I urge you to contact your city council members and tell them what you think of their unpatriotic, unquestioning support for the unilateral actions of our imperialist President, and disregard for democratic debate.

Mail: Olympia City Council
PO Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98507-1967
Phone: (360) 753-8447
E-mail: citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us

Funds Needed to Get "Democracy Now!" on Television

For seven years, "Democracy Now!, Pacifica Radio's award-winning program of news and analysis hosted by Amy Goodman has played on KAOS community radio in Olympia. It is the only nationally syndicated show of its kind to present an independent perspective on current affairs. Since the fall of 2001, the show has been broadcast nationally via Free Speech TV as well as radio. With sponsorship from Media Island International, a local videographer, Taryn Gearhart, has been compiling and editing those shows each week into one two-hour program, which TCTV (Thurston County public access TV) has been broadcasting since November 2001, Thursdays 4: - 6:pm, and Saturdays 11:pm -1:am on their cable channels 22 & 29.

Recently, TCTV accepted a proposal from Media Island and a community group, KAOS Listeners for Democracy Now! (KLDN), to broadcast the show DAILY, in its' entirety, beginning in January 2003. We think this is a very exciting development, as it means more members of our community here in Thurston County will have access to perspectives on public affairs that the mainstream media is not providing. With threats of war, increased corporate skullduggery and authoritarian rule looming large, such alternative perspectives are of the utmost importance. Media Island is the non-profit organization securing the rights to broadcast this here at TCTV. Part of its' mission is "collecting, processing, and distributing crucial information addressing the social justice, economic democracy, ecological sustainability and peace issues that we all collectively face". This mission clearly deserves expansion to greater parts of this community, many of whom are reached by cable television. KLDN is a group of community members who also work to make available to everyone the voices and perspectives of those who are traditionally disenfranchised by the corporate-controlled mainstream media.

Together we are asking individuals and organizations who share these goals and values, to join us and become one of the financial supporters of this project. Supporting this initiative will benefit all of us.

We are now raising the funds to make the satellite connection from Free Speech Television to TCTV. We need to secure $600 by December 1st to get Democracy NOW! on the air in January 2003. Any contribution will be welcome. Please contact us via email sandia@fertileground.org, or by calling Sandia Slaby at (360) 866-4561 for either more information about this project or find out how to submit contributions, which are tax deductible. Any and all help is greatly appreciated!

See also:

www.morelater.com/kaos

www.mediaisland.org

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GAZA

A Bus Ride to Another World

WIP News Alert

This is my last week in Gaza. On Sunday I entered Gaza for the last time. I was afraid that the soldiers might start getting a little suspicious of me with all the Gaza stamps I have on my visa by now. But like always, getting in was a breeze. I've been through it enough times that I can tell you how easy it is.

Suppose you're staying in the Old City in Jerusalem. First you take a bus to the central bus station in West Jerusalem. It's strange that it's called the central bus station when it's located at nearly the very western edge of the city. You can catch the #6 at the bus stop across the street from the New Gate. The fare is 6.20 sheqels, and unlike Olympia, the bus driver will give you change. Tell the other passengers on the bus that you want the central bus station and someone will tell you when to get off. Israelis, like people everywhere, are pretty friendly to lost Americans.

When you get off the bus, you'll see what looks like the entrance to a shopping mall, and at the door you'll see what you'll see at the entrance to any public place in Israel, a long line of people waiting. At the front of the line are guards armed with metal detectors probing people. You may have to wait a while. If you're lucky it won't be a hot day. When you reach the front of the line, the guard will ask you something in Hebrew. If you say "What?" he or she will ask you if you have a weapon. The best answer is no. A lot of people in Israel carry firearms. I'm not sure how many, and I'm not sure if they are allowed to carry them into a public place like a mall. If you are a white American, as I am, the guard will probably do a half-hearted search of your bag, not bothering to scrutinize your mobile phone. Which seems strange to me, given that many Palestinians have been assassinated by exploding telephones. I guess if they had to check everyone's mobile phone, no one would ever get anywhere.

Go to the top floor of the mall (where the bus station is located), and tell the ticket agent that you want a one-way ticket to Ashkelon. The fare is about 20 sheqels. Don't be tempted by the Golden Arches in this mall. If you want to eat at McDonald's before you enter Gaza, you will have one more chance. The McDonald's in this mall, unlike the McDonald's in Ashkelon, is kosher, meaning they won't serve you a cheeseburger and they most definitely won't put cheese on your Big Mac. I usually catch the #437 that leaves around eleven. This gets me to Ashkelon with plenty of time to spare.

On the bus you may notice something unsettling. The bus will most likely be filled to capacity with people standing in the aisle. You will notice that you are one of the only people on the bus not in uniform and not carrying an automatic weapon. The soldiers carry their weapons on the bus and ride along with them. Sometimes they prop them up against the seat in front of them. You should probably resist the urge to tell them to be careful where they point those things. Try not to think about how close it is to the back of your head. Come to think of it, Maybe you'd be better off standing in the aisle, where at least you'll have a good view of what's pointed in which direction. What you will probably find the most unsettling, however, is that you are now riding in what many Palestinians regard as a legitimate military target. Many of these soldiers are on their way to serve in Gaza. It's best not to think about it. Look out the window and try to enjoy the scenery for an hour. This may be a little difficult as the scenery is remarkably similar to the I-5 corridor through central California. Nothing but industrial farming as far as the eye can see.

The bus station in Ashkelon is your last chance to have a Big Mac. You have to ask them to put cheese on it as the default configuration is without cheese. You will take the #037 from here. The fare is 14 sheqels. Tell the bus driver that you want the Erez crossing to Gaza. The bus leaves at 2:15, so you have plenty of time to eat at McDonalds. Usually the guard at the McDonalds just asks me if I have a weapon. He has never searched my bag, and last Sunday when I was there, he just waved me in. I guess I looked trustworthy. I haven't heard about any attacks on Ashkelon and people in Ashkelon don't seem as worried about impending doom as people in Jerusalem. That's what I tell myself, anyway. You will notice that almost everyone at the bus station is a soldier. It looks a lot like the bus station at Fort Lewis. If you didn't know better, you'd think you were on a military base. All the busses to the settlements in Gaza and to the military bases around Gaza leave from here. It's best not to think about it while you're waiting for the bus. Just try to enjoy your Big Mac, and imagine that you're safe at home in America.

You will need to get to the bus stop early to ensure that you get a seat. The #037 is always packed, and I have never seen anyone who is not a soldier on this bus (except for the driver). Once again, try not to think about this fact until you are no longer riding the bus. Most of the soldiers get off at a military base just north of the Gaza strip. At least I think it's a military base. All the signs on the gate are in Hebrew. You can see the sea from here. It's a nice view. If you look just a little to the south you'll see a pier. From the beach in Gaza you can look north and see this same pier. It's in Israel. There's no port in Gaza.

The bus driver should let you off at a fork in the road. Follow the signs that say "Safe Passage to Gaza". It's about a five minute walk. If you're lucky it won't be a hot day. I forgot to mention it before, but don't try to make this journey on a Saturday. I'm pretty sure the checkpoint is closed then. But I don't know for sure. I've never had a chance to find out since the busses don't run on Saturday either.

First you should approach the gate convinced that you know what you're doing. They'll check your passport. Make sure that you saved that little piece of paper they gave you when you entered the country. Even though they already stamped your passport, it's very important to them that they see the same stamp on this little piece of paper. If they ask you any questions, just tell them you're visiting. They've never pressed me beyond this. I'm not sure why they even bothered asking me what I was doing if this answer was enough to satisfy them. From the gate, proceed to the little building to the left. If you're lucky, the soldiers at the gate didn't make you wait in the sun for too long.

Once the Palestinian soldier returns your passport to you, you are officially visiting the Gaza Strip. A world without air conditioning and Big Macs.

This is your last chance to go to the bathroom for a while. Walk up to the counter in the little building and give your passport to the soldier. There are three windows at the counter. They are marked "V.I.P. Foreign Organizations and Tourists", and "Diplomatic Personnel". But since there is only a trickle of foreigners going to gaza, you just go to which ever window has a soldier. Ask the soldier if you can use the bathroom and they will give you the key. If this is your first time through, you're in for a wait. They have to enter all your details into a database, and even if you're the only person there (and you probably will be), it takes them much longer that it seems like it should. They are very polite and they usually apologize for making you wait. The soldiers here are used to dealing with important people like Diplomats and VIPs and Foreign Organizations and Tourists.

Back when you were at the gate, you may have noticed a busload of Palestinians arriving at about this time. They go through a different gate a few hundred meters to the left. I'm not sure if there's a bathroom for them. You will notice a very long covered walkway where they presumably wait in line. But there's a wall between the checkpoint for important people and the checkpoint for them, so you won't be able to see how many people are waiting or how long they're made to wait.

After they have entered your details, they may ask you if you have a car. Tell them no and they'll give you a little slip of paper. This is your gate pass. Two weeks ago when I went through the chekpoint, the soldier asked me if I wanted a cookie. I said sure. Who can resist a cookie? They seemed to be having a bit of a celebration. I asked what the occasion was. Was it someone's birthday? Was someone getting married? He said that one of the people that worked there just finished his duty in the army. Even better, I agreed. So I got chocolate frosting all over my gate pass. If you examine the little piece of paper they gave you when you entered the country, you will notice that on the back of it is a new little round stamp that will let anyone who wants to know see that you've been in gaza.

Now you're in for a very long walk. Turn left at the door and follow the wall separating you from the palestinians waiting under the covered walkway until you get to another gate that looks like a toll-booth. It's a good idea to travel light if you're going to Gaza. Give the soldier your gate pass. The soldier may ask for your passport. Keep following the wall. If you walk right next to it you may get a little shade. A taxi will approach you as soon as you have crossed the gate. Say "la'shukron" (no thanks) and keep walking. when you get to a crowd of parked taxis, also refuse their service, no matter how aggressive they are. Look around in the offices for the Palestinian soldier. He will take your passport and write your name and number in a book. This is always much faster than waiting for the Israeli soldiers to type your name and number in a database. Which is strange, since it seems like it would be faster to type something into a computer than to write something in a book. But nothing here is as it seems. Keep refusing any offers for taxi service. Remember that they can sense weakness.

Now you're in for another long walk. Once the Palestinian soldier returns your passport to you, you are officially visiting the Gaza Strip. You have now entered a different world. A world without air conditioning and Big Macs. People here don't really seem to mind the lack of airconditioning. They've lived here for thousands of years, and are probably used to the heat by now. Keep walking in the direction you came. On your right you'll see a big building surrounded by barbed wire and flying an Israeli flag. This is a factory. You'll see a bunch of Palestinians leaving it in single file and maybe you'll hear someone barking orders at them over a loudspeaker. Fall in with this line and follow them. They're headed to the cheap taxis. When you get to the taxis, try to find someone standing next to a van yelling "Sa-ha Shajaia! Shekel nos!" This means that it will cost you one and a half sheqels to go to the square in Gaza. If you can find a van with a few people in it, it means it's about to leave. But even in an empty van you probably won't have to wait long, since everyone is just getting off work for the day, and ready to go home in a hurry.

I guess it's not really that easy to make this journey after all. Or it's easy if you don't mind waiting a lot. You should probably just take a taxi to the Erez checkpoint instead of waiting for the bus since your life is worth more than the few sheqels you'll save by riding in a movingtarget.

Once you're in Gaza you don't have to worry about suicide bombers anymore. There are no guards at the entrance of every public place. No one is going to search your bags. You should probably be careful about where you buy your mobile phone as you never know who the previous owner might have been. And be careful about which public phones you use as well. And you

(continued next page)

A Plan For America's Prisoners

Ronald Henderson

As I sit isolated in an IMU control unit cell, separated from the inside prison population and the outside world, I try to analyze the social and political madness of Washington state judicial and correctional agencies. In Washington King County, African Americans make up only 5.4% of the general population, but are 35% of the county's prison population, and account for only 37% of the 173 felons sentenced under the 3 strikes law. For every 100,000 people in the state of Washington, 161 European Americans are incarcerated, compared to 1,392 African Americans. This is the disenfranchising of whole communities and races of people.

Depriving the urban minority community of one of its most precious assets, Black and Latino men, is causing women and youth are becoming one of Washington's prized commodities. Washington now leads the nation, with the highest unemployment rate, and is suffering from massive budget cuts. Over the last 10 years Washington state has tripled with increase spending on prison industries. All this time, Washington is neglecting needed education and transportation expansion (i.e. road repairs and new freeways), teachers are striking because of low pay, big corporations are relocating because of taxes and traffic commuting problems that have been an issue for years, plus downsizing and hiring for lower wages. But the Department of Corrections' (DOC) budget spending has increased three fold. Since the passing of senate bill 2010, the DOC has made massive upgrades in high tech construction to all its prison facilities, increased hiring of staff, acquired new equipment, all in the name of security.

Inmates are deducted 35% of any money earned or received; 20% is for the cost of corrections, 10% goes into mandatory savings fund controlled by the DOC, and 5% to a crime victims compensation fund that is actually used to fund DOC's victim notification and awareness programs. Another 20% is taken for LFO, legal financial obligation such as to pay off any victims restitution, child support , trial cost, any fines acquired during incarceration, and/or any court order financial obligations. What is not being spoken of is the interest the DOC receives on that money in its treasury account. The vast amount of that money is being used by the DOC to upgrade its facilities and pay employees. Since 1998, all DOC facilities have seen budget increases to upgrade with high tech computers, cameras, security reinforcement construction, weapons, and new vehicles. New institutions are still been built, such as Stafford Creek Corrections.

For every year an inmate spends in prison, it cost tax payers $22,000. This rises as prisoners age. The cost of a life term averages at $1.5 million.

And the tax payers are paying the cost. For every year an inmate spends in prison, it cost tax payers $22,000. This rises as prisoners age. The cost of a life term averages at $1.5 million. At a cost of $22,000 a year, what is an inmate to do? Since 1996, the DOC have cut most of its education and vocational programs, with reductions of other positive effective training programs. Lifers, and long and short term prisoners are learning NO meaningful skills in the technology of labor field to be marketed. There is a DOC industries program, but it only employs 300 prisoners at minimum wage by class I industries. The state is spending millions on its prison industries and bureaucracy, and squandering tax payer's money, money that can be used for educational programs, literacy, and vocational training. The DOC only severs the purpose of providing cheap labor for big corporations and private enterprise.

Here is a logical ideal, one that will have a lot logistics but is possible. Cuban President Fidel Castro has offered up to 500 students per year who could not afford it free medical training, as along as they have a high school diploma and agree that they will return to the U.S. to practice in under served urban centers, rural communities, Native American reservations, or Third World Nations. By 1983, between 7 and 13 percent of all Cuban doctors had completed international missions. In April 2000, Cuban health minister, Carlos Dotres said that more than 42,000 Cuban health professional have worked in 93 countries since the Cuban revolution triumphed.

Why can't this nation, the super power of the globe, take its confined men and women locked away in its correctional for profit systems, inmates serving between 10 years to life sentences, and train them in medical, engineering, construction, and agriculture fields? This plan could be in effect in five years to help rebuild impoverished nations. Yes services are needed in our own countries, but what better way to rehabilitate men and women by letting them help people who are dying in other countries, receiving useful training and skills, and also working with victims of government, corporate, and environmental crimes in third world countries.

Healthy, capable, well bodied, men and women are wasting away in America prisons; they are siting idle and unproductive. Inmate work programs in this country are slave labor. These people could be of service doing more meaningful work around the world to pay back there debts to society and its victims. Why let the tax payers pay $22,000 a year or a life term average $1.5 million per inmate, when that money can be used in the needed communities?

It is true that some victims can never be given there life back or compensated, but people in this program can help save and rebuild the lives of those who are dying of hunger, thirst, and poverty in other countries. The opinions of the Third World countries about American foreign policy would really change to be more positive with the implementation of such a program. This would be a good plan for law makers to work on.

Ronald Henderson #729397
Stafford Creek Correction Center
F-N-C-24 191 Constantine Way
Aberdeen, WA 98520

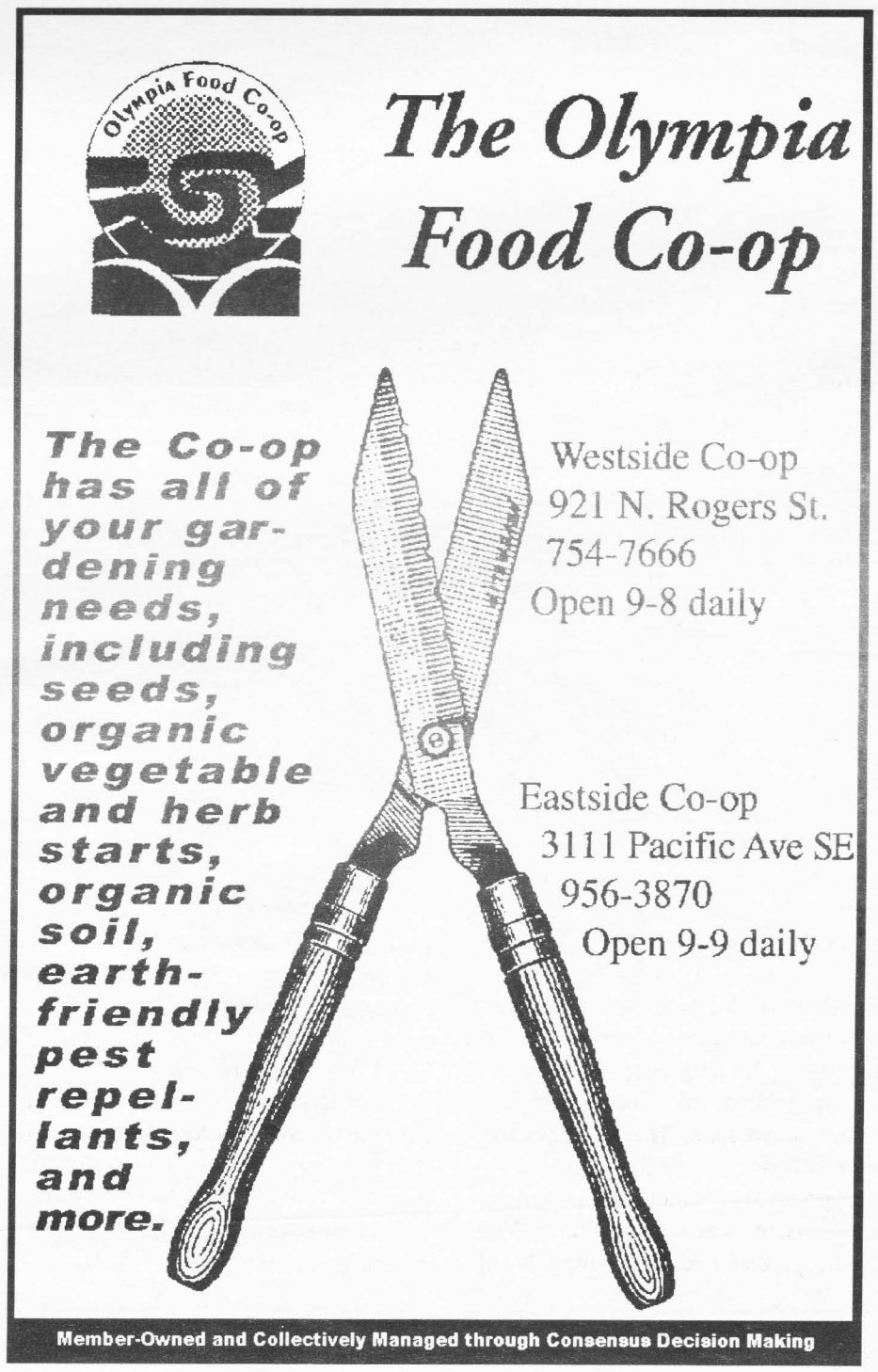
Stolen Lives

By Ronald Henderson

I used to smile at the sunrise,
and blushed at its warmth.
I sued to be tickled by the
breeze of the wind.
Now I sit in this cold stoic
solitude it's substitute.
This place has taken away
my humor, when I use to
laugh at life's beauty.
Laughs stolen by the makers
of pain and tears.
Crying for my lost years
in this dungeon of confined fears.
Stolen laughs, Stolen dreams,
this is not always what it seems.

(Palestine, continued)

should be careful about which buildings you enter since you never know which ones might contain terrorist suspects. The same goes for shared taxis. And be careful about which streets you walk down, since you can't be sure which streets are part of the terrorist infrastructure. The square, for example (remember the place that the van from the checkpoint let you off?), was the scene of the gunfight a couple weeks ago between Hamas and the Palestinian police. My friend was on his way to see me and was trying to catch a taxi from there when they were shooting at each other. He didn't know what was going on, but he knew that it would be prudent to leave the area in a hurry. So be careful. But don't worry too much. As long as you don't enter any buildings, ride in any cars, walkdown any streets, or talk on any telephones you'll be fine.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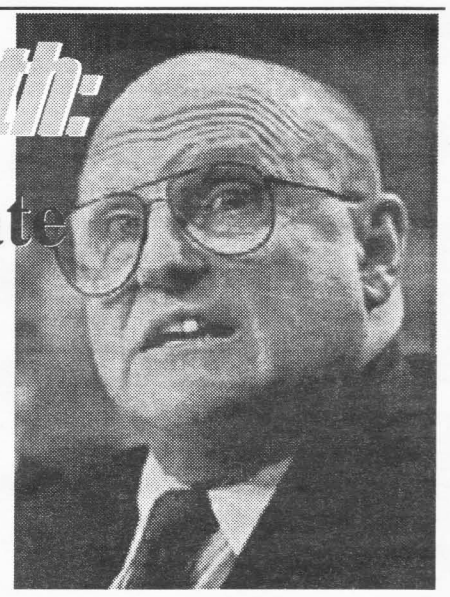
KNOW MORE's "Evil-Doer" of the Month:



Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State

Nancy West

As the United States prepares for war with Iraq, which our Congress has now made a little bit easier for our "President", Know More takes a closer look at one of the key although not well known players, Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State. Mr. Armitage is a very highly experienced government servant and also either blessed with the gift of psychic ability or maybe he's just a good guesser. I'm sure the following statement in an interview with the Council on Foreign Relations can't possibly be based on knowledge of or involvement in war planning prior to Bush being "elected" to the presidency.

Mr. Armitage quite presciently states "Regarding Iraq, I personally have no doubt that early on in the Bush Administration the President will be challenged by Saddam Hussein in one manner or another. And this may offer an opportunity to resolve the questions of WMD capability in Iraq." This interview is dated August 3, 2000. So, not only does he seem to know that there will be an opportunity to set Saddam straight but the wording of his answer also suggests that he knows Bush will be president.

He was right. Bush is "President" and the drums of war are beating. And Mr. Armitage, now our Deputy Secretary of State, is busy circling the globe creating support for Bush's war against Iraq. It makes one wonder, since Bush has basically no supporters (Great Britain and Israel don't count) what "diplomatic" means Armitage is using to help our less hawkish neighbors see the light.

Richard Armitage is very experienced in foreign relations. He has spent most of his career working for his country. He was Reagan's Assistant Secretary of Defense. During that time he may have been involved in the providing of "aid" to Iran, now known as the Iran-Contra scandal. Although he downplays the importance of his role, indeed, he denies involvement in or even knowledge of the arms sales, there is evidence to support the contrary. Armitage doesn't seem to be able to remember this but his meeting log indicates he met with major Iran-Contra player Richard Secord, to talk about whether to sell arms to Iran. He was also at a meeting where Oliver North outlined covert activities in support of the Contras. A document entitled " Possibility for Leaks" that described the legal ramifications of the Iran arms sales was kept locked in his Pentagon safe. Lawrence Walsh, the independent counsel for the congressional Iran-Contra committee declined to prosecute Armitage because even though he had extensive evidence he could not prove Armitage's statement that he did not know about the Iran-Contra affair until after it became public knowledge was false.

Armitage did such a great job for Reagan, that the first Bush administration wanted him to be the Secretary of the Army. But before the vote on his nomination, he withdrew his name citing a need to spend more time with family. Do you think his reasons for withdrawing his name might have had a little something to do with information that came out about his connections with a woman involved in organized crime? The surfacing of information regarding a glowing character reference written on Pentagon stationary for the woman, a picture of the two of them suggesting more than a business relationship and the fact that all this placed him in the position of being subject to blackmail may have made him recognize the need for a cooling off period. Even though he did not become the Secretary of the Army, he did continue to play an important role in foreign relations for the first Bush administration.

Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State, is a very highly experienced government servant and also either blessed with the gift of psychic ability or maybe he's just a good guesser.

The eight years of the Clinton administration was a perfect cooling off period for Armitage because here he is again—good as new—and working for Bush junior. His past experience in the Middle East and Asia is proving to be of great benefit to Bush who just a couple years ago probably could not have found Afghanistan on a map much less have pronounced it.

Before beginning his important work helping to gather support for an invasion of Iraq, Armitage was right square in the middle of saving Afghanistan from the Taliban. Interesting, isn't it that the U.S. not long ago was very supportive of both Saddam and the Taliban but now they have become a part of the axis of evil? Maybe if we think real hard we can find a common denominator here.

Maybe if we think real hard we can find a common denominator here.

Possibly more a supporter of terrorism than Iraq is Pakistan. For some interesting reading about Armitage's meetings with high-level officials from Pakistan's intelligence service before and after September 11, 2001, the reader is directed to an article by Professor Chossudovsky of the Centre for Research on Globalization at the University of Ottawa at globalresearch.ca/articles/CHO111A.html.

Whether the Bush administration has really been "challenged by Saddam Hussein" or not depends on what you consider to be a challenge or maybe how you connect the dots. Saddam's mere existence seems to be enough of a challenge for junior or maybe it's what his country is sitting on top of that presents a challenge. However you look at it, one thing is fairly sure—the "opportunity to resolve the questions of WMD capability in Iraq" is imminent.

Nancy West, member of Know More, may be reached at KnowMore@thurston.com.

Bio in Brief

The following highlights of Richard Armitage's career as excerpted from his online State Department biography.

- **Born in 1945**
- **Graduated from US Naval Academy in 1967**
- **Completed three combat tours in Viet Nam**
- **Left active duty in 1973 to join the US Defense Attache Office, Saigon**
- **May 1975 became a Pentagon consultant and was stationed in Tehran, Iran until November 1976.**
- **1980 during Reagan campaign served as senior advisor to the Interim Foreign Policy Advisory board, which prepared the President-elect for major international policy issues.**
- **1981-1983 Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for East Asia and Pacific Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.**
- **1989-1992 served in many different high level diplomatic positions in the Pacific and East Asia for the Bush senior administration.**
- **1992-1993 with the personal rank of Ambassador, directed US assistance to the new independent states of the former Soviet Union.**
- **1993-March 2001 was president of Armitage Associates LC engaged in a wide range of worldwide business and public policy endeavors**
- **On March 26, 2001 was sworn in as Deputy Secretary of State.**

Tip of the Month from KNOW MORE

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NO on Ref. 51

To the Editor:

I'm surprised that several corporate leaders are supporting Referendum 51, the new roads initiative.

I'm surprised because I would hope that corporate leaders would want to see a complete transportation "business plan" from our legislature, not Referendum 51 which would fund only $7 billion of our $50 billion transportation project backlog.

I'm surprised because I would think that our corporate leaders would want to know where the remaining $43 billion will come from.

I'm surprised because corporate leaders aren't in the habit of offering products that are outmoded, like the massive paving of the Puget Sound region promised by Referendum 51, which builds roads that will soon clog with new traffic.

I'm surprised by Washington's innovative corporate leaders who are speaking in favor of Referendum 51 because the proposal contains only a glimpse of a truly promising future of transportation alternatives, without seriously attempting to implement this vitally necessary non-pavement oriented future.

But perhaps I can understand the motivation of our corporate leaders, who look at the gridlock on our roads, and in our state legislature, and who exasperatingly shout: "Do Something!"

So, voters, please "do something" by voting NO on Referendum 51 and then telling your legislators to get busy creating an effective, modern, people-and-goods-moving transportation system worthy of our state's innovative people and corporations.

Olympia Councilmember
Curt Pavola

A Political Fairy Tale

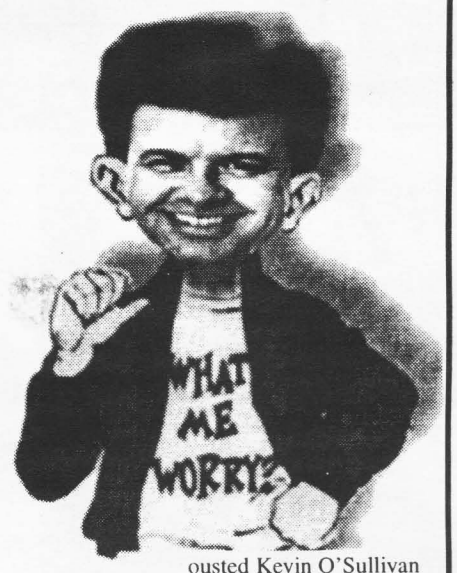
Gary Edwards and the Scary Guy with the Suspended License

Once upon a time (it was last June), Sheriff Gary Edwards had a little bit of fun. On his way home after a hard day at the office, Gary saw a fellow who looked just like a guy who had a suspended license. It really wasn't him, but this one, we'll call im "Jack", had a suspended license, too. So maybe it doesn't matter much that Gary had the wrong guy.

At some point, we don't know when, Jack became nervous. And like any hard core suspended license criminal, Jack couldn't take the pressure. He freaked out and took off, and our brave sheriff pursued him gleefully. (Gary has always been fond of a good car chase.) The two sped along for ten miles or so, with speeds sometimes exceeding 100 miles per hour. Suddenly they came upon an intersection with traffic. Jack slowed down. Gary then masterfully bumped Jack's car, causing it to spin out of control. Our brave sheriff.

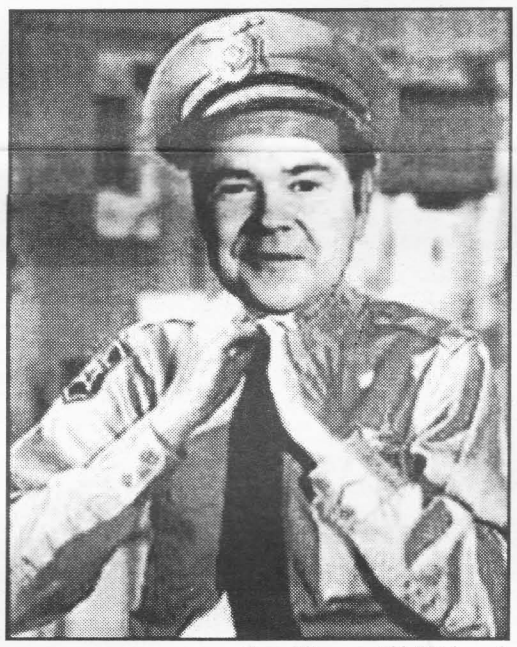
Gary clapped handcuffs on Jack and sent him to jail. But alas, Gary forgot that his cop car was unmarked and therefore not suitable for high-speed chases. The prosecutor reduced the dangerous criminal's felony charge to just three itty-bitty misdemeanors. Poor Gary. A lesser man would have become chargrined, but not our warrior. He just shrugged his shoulders and boasted, "there are other big fish to fry."

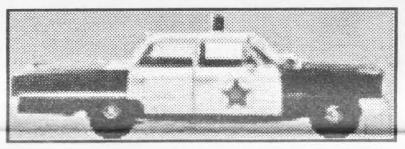
The lesson of this story has come -- November 5, let us not vote to retain a sheriff that pursues the inconsequential. It is a fine time for Gary Edwards to join Kevin O'Sullivan on the long drive to the Never Again Land of former elected officials. Kevin can ride shotgun.

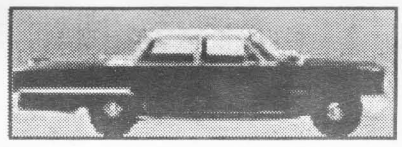


ousted Kevin O'Sullivan

Hey, Sheriff Gary Edwards, what kind of police car must you use to chase people at speeds over 100 miles a hour?


Gary "Barney Fife" Edwards

☐ 

☑ 

Sorry, Gary, that's incorrect. You must use a marked car when 'you' decide to chase people with suspended licenses in South County. *Say, where's Andy?*

The following endorsements were made by **Environmentalists**: *Washington Conservation Voters*; **Labor**: *WA Federation of State Employees*; and **Queer rights**: *Freedom Vote*

***WIP* Presents: Civil Rights Endorsements**		WCV	WFSE	FV
THURSTON COUNTY	Thurston PUD -- **Gary Cooper**	Yes		Yes
	Thurston Sheriff -- **Glenn Quantz**			Yes
U.S. CONGRESS	Dist. 3 -- **Brian Baird**		Yes	
	Dist. 9 -- **Adam Smith**		Yes	
STATE SUPREME COURT	Pos. 3 -- **Mary Fairhurst**	Yes		
	Pos. 4 -- **Charles Johnson**	Yes	Yes	
	Pos. 7 -- **Bobbe Bridge**		Yes	
STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	Dist. 20 (Pos. 1) -- **Richard DeBolt**		Yes	
	Dist. 20 (Pos. 2) -- **Gary Alexander**		Yes	
	Dist. 22 (Pos. 1) -- **Sandra Romero**	Yes	Yes	Yes!
	Dist. 22 (Pos. 2) -- **Sam Hunt**	Yes	Yes	Yes!
	Dist. 22 (Pos. 2) -- **John D. Olson**			NO!
	Dist. 35 (Pos. 1) -- **Kathy Haigh**		Yes	
	Dist. 35 (Pos. 2) -- **Bill Eickmeyer**		Yes	
INITIATIVES	**Referendum 51** -- *Transportation*		Yes	
	Initiative 776 -- *Car tabs*	NO	NO	
	Initiative 790 -- *Law enforcement pensions*		Yes	

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE! SEE PAGE 2

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- 1 -
Debate Grows Over Proposed Mega-Jail & Olympia City Council Back President in War Plans

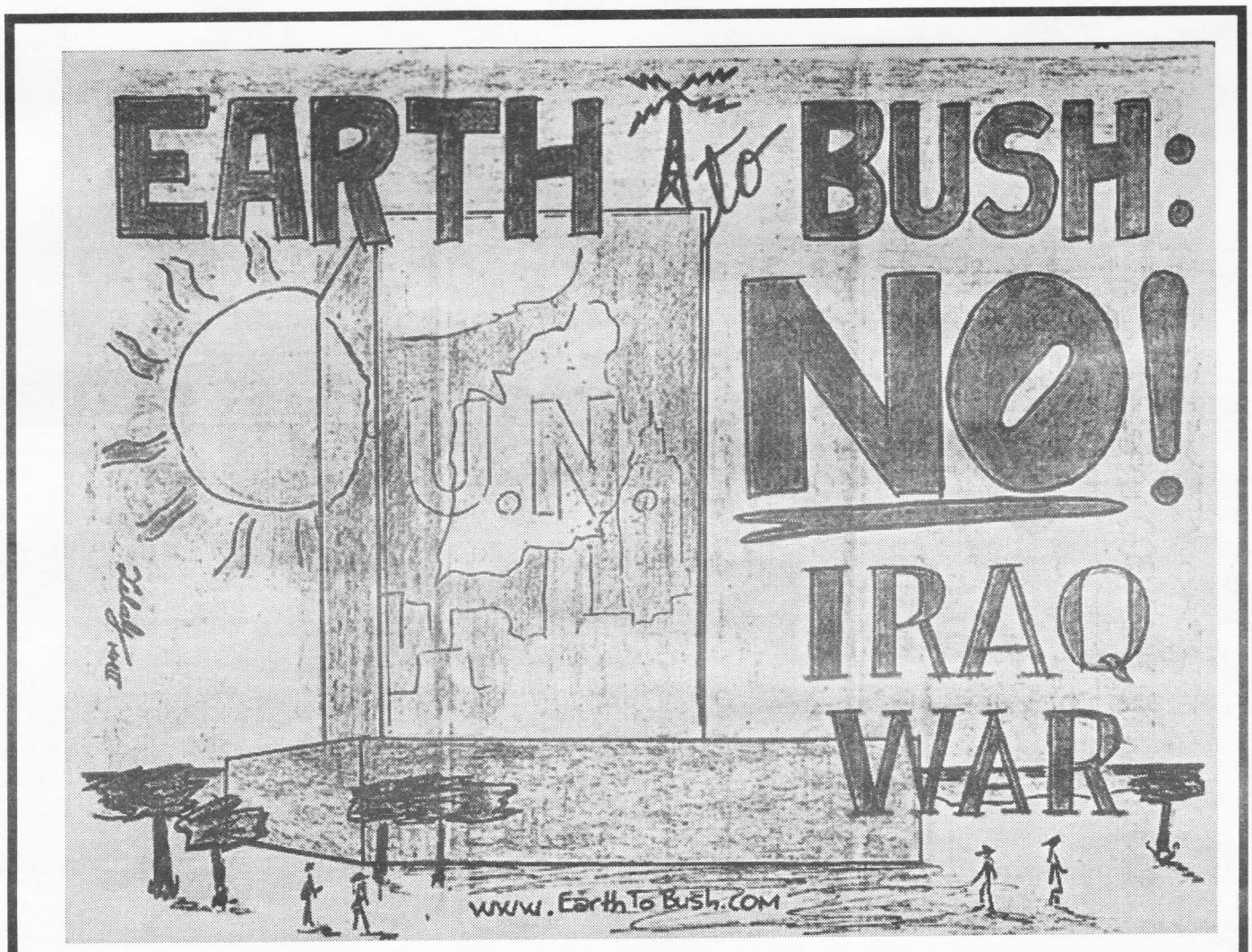
- 4 -
Rocks or Birds?

- 6 -
Lies, Damn Lies and George W. Bush

- 8 -
Gaza : A Bus Ride to Another World

- 9 -
A Plan for Prisoners

- 10 -
"Evil-Doer" of the Month
Richard Armitage



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